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Agenda item 3
Basic programme of work of the Council

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 19 January 2011 from the United States Mission to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

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Annex

Diplomatic note dated 19 January 2011 from the United States Mission to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations and refers to the Secretary-General's note C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2 (Depositary Notification), dated 6 April 2009, which communicated a proposal to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1972) (the Single Convention); and to the Secretary-General's note C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3 (Depositary Notification), dated 30 July 2009, which informed the parties to the Single Convention of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to initiate the procedures established in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention with regard to the proposal.

Through ratification of the Single Convention, Member States undertake an obligation to limit the trade and use of narcotic drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. Member States also recognize that measures against the abuse of narcotic drugs require coordinated and universal action. Schedule I to the Single Convention lists coca leaf as a narcotic drug. In considering the proposed amendment, Member States must remain guided by the principles and objectives of the Single Convention.

In accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, the Mission informs the United Nations that the United States of America, consistent with its general obligations outlined in article 4 of the Convention, does not accept the proposed amendment.